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ARRETT
5/22/02

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Application of: | Brown et al. |
| Application No.: | 09/666,866 |
| Filed: | September 20, 2000 |
| For: | IMPROVED LONGITUDINALLY FLEXIBLE EXPANDABLE STENT |
| Examiner: | P. Prebilic |
| Group Art Unit: | 3738 |

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-9397

AMENDMENT

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated December 20, 2001. In response, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

In the Abstract, on page 8 of the specification, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

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A stent in a non-expanded state includes a first expansion column and a second expansion column. The first expansion column comprises a plurality of expansion strut pairs. Each expansion strut pair includes a first expansion strut and a second expansion strut joined by a joining strut. The second expansion column comprises a plurality of expansion strut pairs. Each expansion strut pair includes a first expansion strut and a second expansion strut joined by a joining strut. The first and second expansion columns are connected via a first connecting strut column. The first connecting strut column comprises a plurality of first connecting struts. The first expansion strut of the first expansion strut pair in the first expansion column has a longitudinal axis offset from a longitudinal axis of the first expansion strut of the second expansion strut pair in the second expansion column.